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WALT WHITMAN

The year of our Lord 1819 was prolific in distinguished births, and the year 1919 was notable for important centennials. The good city of Memphis celebrated her one hundredth natal day in spite of the rain and inclement weather. Hickman, Ky., also celebrated her natal day in May. The year 1819 saw the birth of James Russell Lowell, Walt Whitman, whose hundredth anniversary occurred on May 31 just passed; John Ruskin and George Eliot, among the literary folk, and many others. New England celebrated Lowell's anniversary elaborately in February last. England sent one of her leading literary men to represent her. Whitman's anniversary was unnoticed. There is a reason—to use a famous advertising refrain. From the beginning Lowell was popular. He was looked upon both as a classic and a companion. Whitman, although called the "good gray poet" now, was never popular. Foreign nations esteem him the supreme figure in American literature. In the early fifties he shocked and outraged New England Puritanism by publishing "Leaves of Grass." He was looked upon as a literary ruffian, and extreme New England prudery pronounced him "na-awsty"—the same prudery that compels young people to grow up in chaste ignorance of physiology. From the first Whitman had a few enthusiastic admirers, and these have been increasing as the years rolled by. Anne Gilchrist, of noble memory, wrote a review of his book, which did great honor to her literary precept and acumen. Across the water William M. Rossetti, the scholarly Swinburne, and others interpreted him. Lowell was smug and conventional, and had only Longfellow as a rival in popularity. Whitman was a rude barbarian. The average man could make nothing of him. He was neither poetry nor prose. He broke away in form and substance from the conventional, and only the cultivated ear could appreciate the natural rhythm which he substituted for the traditional rhyme and meter to which the public was wedded, and he insisted on tearing off the fig leaves with which poor humanity had clothed itself. Worse than this, he preached a democracy which included all, saint and sinner, white and black, in one brotherhood, and children of one God. Sixty or seventy years ago this was looked upon as an abolitionist heresy, fit only for base aphorophagous louse eaters. He preached the divinity of self, and was put down as a blatant egotist, while claiming nothing for himself that he did not claim for all men, and he indulged in more frank, helpful self-criticism than any other else has done.

Whitman has been coming into his own of late years. William Norman Guthrie, Shelby county born, and a cultured product of the Sewanee schools, savagely attacked Whitman when he first read him. In his maturer years he saw differently, and has given in his book, "Modern Poet Prophets," a beautiful and sympathetic interpretation of "the Camden sage" that does him full justice.

Lafadio Hearn, in his lectures to his Nipponese students, unfolds and analyzes Whitman in a manner to make him intelligible and beautiful, and many others have done work along the same line.

When all is said, Whitman is deeply religious. Whitmanianism is not narrow denominationalism, but a broadly and profoundly universal religion that is not exclusively concerned with the selfish saving of individual souls, but with elevating humanity and royalizing the race.

Whitman is one of the few that come as the fruit of the ripened centuries. He has a meaningful message for us. It was given to him in fragments, and he delivered it to us in a fragmentary way. The careful reader will find a sequence to these fragments which makes of them a concrete unity and a symmetrical whole. Greater poets and prophets are to come to explain and reveal things to us, strange and beautiful things, which, when revealed, will appear familiar to us, and like unto original intuitions. The "Leaves of Grass" lies uncut on library shelves. He is read only by the very curious and by scholars who cannot afford to ignore him. If read in connection with one of his interpreters he richly repays perusal. He will be more widely esteemed on his second centennial.

Senator Robinson's offer to resign and make the race for the senate before the people of Arkansas on the league of nations platform if Senator Reed, of Missouri, will resign and make the race against the league was merely the exhibition of confidence in the people, as compared with Senator Reed's lack of confidence, when he declined to accept the challenge.

The anarchists make the defense that the passage of the bill prohibiting the display of a flag antagonistic to the constitution and laws of the United States would mean that the railroads would be prohibited from using red flags. There would be no objection to the abolition of the red flags on trains manned and patronized exclusively by anarchists.

Testimony in the Ford suit against the Tribune shows that the wives of soldiers from the plant did not receive their allowance for a month after the men joined the colors. There was no resentment on account of the delay, as they also were to receive a part of their husbands' pay from the government.

Rains, weeds and grass and the industrious boll weevil are doing their bit toward reducing the acreage, or, at least, the number of bales of cotton. They held no convention, but they are working together with singular unanimity.

English publicists have appealed to Lloyd George and President Wilson to alter the peace terms so the Germans will sign willingly. Plans like those ought to be presented by the Germans and signed by the allies.

The text of the treaty of peace, which is being held in sacred secrecy in this country, is being sold in Germany for 15 cents a copy; but it must be remembered that Germany must produce the revenue.

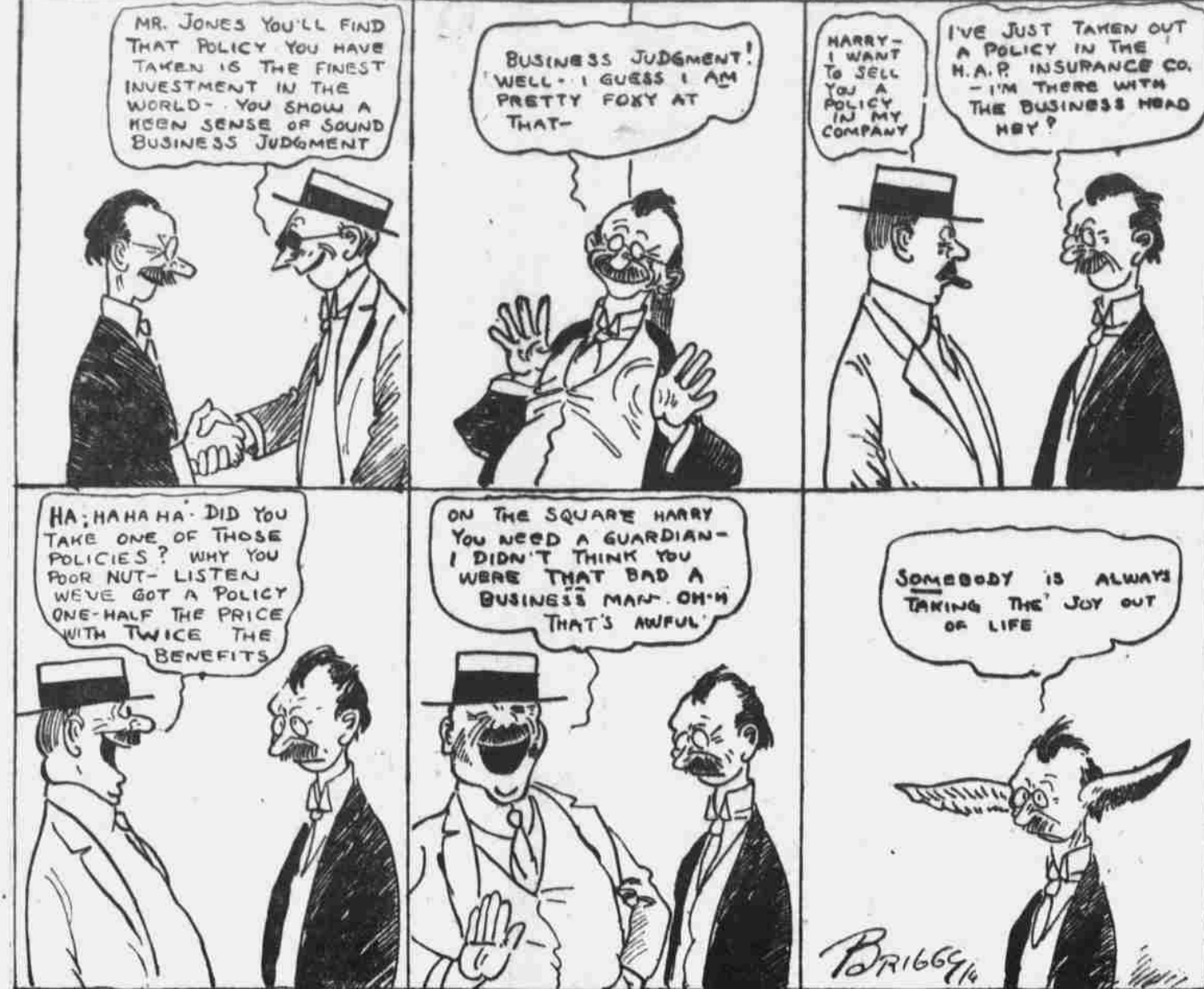
Victor Berger says bomb outrages can be prevented by making this a free country, but in our judgment the best way to stop them is to deprive certain persons of their freedom.

The 15 per cent reduction of rubber tires is interesting, but a substantial reduction in shoe leather would cause more general rejoicing.

Germany should not object to signing the peace terms. There is nothing in them that the allies cannot compel her to do.

Somebody Is Always Taking the Joy Out of Life—By Briggs

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Twice Told Tales

10 Years Ago Today in Memphis.

JUNE 5, 1909.
Balloons cast off at the speedway at Indianapolis for the race of the national long distance trophy presented by the Aero club of America. The whole aeronautic world had its eyes turned on the result.

Memphis was overflowing with the veterans who were the Gray. The first delegation to arrive as a whole was the Golden Gate division from California, many of them native Tennesseans.

Suits aggregating \$100,000 were filed at Nashville against the Cumberland Telephone and Telegraph company, the Landis Banking company, the Landis company and John T. Landis.

The Merchants' exchange directors decided to join the Cotton exchange on the building of an 18-story steel structure on the site of the old exchange building.

The local papers carried big stories of the veterans telling of the capture of Memphis, which occurred 48 years ago on the following day.

Vast rains throughout Mississippi resulted in big washouts of railroad tracks and led to property loss and confusion to trains below Jackson was great.

Tommy Gary and Johnny Conners, from Chicago and New York respectively, arrived within a few hours of each other to begin training for the fight about at the Phoenix athletic club, the coming Monday.

They soon discovered that the Saw-Horse limped, for his leg was a trifle too long. So they were obliged to halt while the Tin Woodman chopped it down with his ax, after which the wooden steed paced along more comfortably. But the Saw-Horse was not entirely satisfied, even yet.

"It was a shame that I broke my other leg," he growled.

"On the contrary," airily remarked the Woggle-Bug, who was walking alongside, "you should consider the accident most fortunate. For a horse is never of much use until he has been broken."

"I beg your pardon," said Tip, rather provoked, for he felt warm indeed. "In both the Saw-Horse and his man Jack, but permit me to say that your horse is a poor one, and as old as it is poor."

"Still, it is a joke," declared the Woggle-Bug, firmly, "and a joke derived from a play upon words is considered among educated people to be eminently proper."

"What does that mean?" inquired the Pumpkinhead, stupidly.

"It means, my dear friend," explained the Woggle-Bug, "that our language contains many words having double meaning, and that to pronounce a joke that allows both meanings of a certain word, proves the joker a person of culture and refinement, who has, moreover, a thorough command of the language."

"I don't believe that," said Tip, plainly, "anybody can make a pun."

"Not so," rejoined the Woggle-Bug, "it requires education of a high order. Are you educated, young sir?"

"Not especially," admitted Tip.

"Then you can not judge the matter. I myself am thoroughly educated, and I say that puns display genius. For instance, were I to ride upon this Saw-Horse, he would not only be an animal—he would become an equippage. For he would then be a horse and buggy."

At this the Scarecrow gave a gasp and the Tin Woodman stopped short and looked reproachfully at the Woggle-Bug. At the same time the Saw-Horse loudly snorted his derision, and even the Pumpkinhead put up his hand to hide the smile which, because it was carved upon his face, he could not change to a frown.

But the Woggle-Bug strutted along as if he had made some brilliant remark, and the Scarecrow was obliged to say:

"I have heard, my dear friend, that a person can become overeducated, and although I have a high respect for brains, no matter how they may be arranged or classified, I begin to suspect that yours are slightly tangled. In any event, I must beg you to restrain your superior education while in our society."

"We are not very particular," added the Tin Woodman, "and we are exceedingly kind hearted. But if your superior culture gets leaky again—He did not complete the sentence, but he twirled his gleaming ax so carelessly that the Woggle-Bug looked frightened and shrank away to a safe distance."

The others marched on in silence, and the Highly-Magnified one, after a period of deep thought, said in a humble voice:

"I will endeavor to restrain myself."

"That is all we can expect," returned the Scarecrow, pleasantly; and good nature being thus happily restored to

AMUSEMENTS

Orpheum.

"The Hodge Podge Sextette" is the title of an elaborately staged offering which heads the bill coming to the Orpheum for the last half of this week beginning with the matinee Thursday. "The Hodge Podge Sextette" is a whirl of words and music displayed in three scenes. The first portrays an alley in the famous East Side section of New York; the second scene is called "Peacock Paradise," and artistic conception that serves to introduce Benny Barton, a youngster of marked ability, and the third and last scene is a most picturesque and spectacular setting of a cafe in Venice showing the famous streets of water. Jacques Talman, William Craig & Co. in "Number Please," have a long distance toll of laughter wired with song and dance.

Chester Spencer and Dolly Wilson have an original comedy skit entitled, "Putting It Over," and Blanche Boyd, a petite bundle of femininity, in a charming comedy, "The Picture," starring Evelyn Greeley.

Loew's Lyceum.

Five all-star acts will be presented at Loew's Lyceum the last half of the week beginning Thursday afternoon.

Two features will be of special note on the bill, these being Julian Hall, the last boy, who impersonates Charlie Chaplin in a most humorous way, and whose songs are full of pep and vivacity, and Klutzing's Animals, featuring the jumping cats. Others on the bill will include the Norvelles in an artistic aerial act; Hinkel and Mae in a comedy with songs, entitled "Catch-

ing a Car," and Gertrude Long and Spencer Wade in a pantomime and English comedy feature, "Rainbows." The feature film will present pretty Dorothy Dalton in "Extravagance," a thrilling drama of a woman's extravagance and the many situations it led her into. Loew's News Weekly and other short features will be added.

A total of \$11,000 in personal injury claims against the Patton-Tully Transportation company was filed last Wednesday in a report filed in United States district court by George H. Poole, United States commissioner, growing out of the boiler explosion Sept. 4, 1918, on derrick boat No. 2, which was owned by the company at Fox Island, Miss.

Every person on the boat was either killed or injured by the explosion which took place at the time the boiler was being loaded with coal. The explosion was caused by the failure of the boiler, which was a result of the negligence of the company.

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WOULD CO-ORDINATE ALL RIVER AND RAIL ROUTES

A bill has been completed and will be presented to congress within the next few days calling for the prompt completion of the Ohio, Mississippi and Missouri river projects asked for in the resolutions passed by the Mississippi Valley Waterways association at its last convention in St. Louis, April 17 and 18, according to information received by local river route advocates from J. E. Smith, of St. Louis, president of the association.

Mr. Smith declares he intends leaving for Washington in a few days to follow up the presentation of this bill and to prepare and present two other bills touching upon this important matter.

The two other bills, according to Mr. Smith, will call for the co-ordination of the railroads and waterways of the nation and complete co-operation for the betterment of the people and will provide for a commission or bureau to have complete jurisdiction over the inland waterways.

Two former members of the faculty of the West Tennessee State Normal school have been accorded honors in their respective fields since leaving the local institution, according to information received by normal professors.

Prof. C. P. Patterson, recently given a degree of doctor of philosophy at Columbia, has been made associate professor in American history in Syracuse, N. Y.

Prof. A. F. Patterson, who was elected assistant professor of history at the Louisiana State university, Prof. Patterson was formerly professor of history at the Normal school, and Prof. Farris was assistant in this department.

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EDUCATORS PROMOTED.

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On the Spur of the Moment

by Roy K. Moulton.

BACK TO DIXIE.
Bon Jouvah dere, Liza Jane!
How's yo-all dis yere aujourd'hui?
I's been to France an' back agin,
An' you'll sure seem compress
Dis yere Frawnsay lingerie.
Aw, oul, maw cherise-ee;
I done see yo' soon.
Voila, a poli kiss—
Jus' lika dis—(smack)—
Comme saw, mah Dixie belle;
Yo-all's better'n any Frawnsay damoiselle.
—Private F. W. Ewing, Co. A, 309th Field Sig. Bn.

"General Strike in Germany."—Headline.
About time their generals struck.

That Hungarian-Bolshevik uprising may fall to make a long run, on account of the poor stage management by the Germans.

Conan Doyle makes the positive assertion that he has communicated with the dead. If people are getting so they can do that, there will never be a chance for a doctor to escape any more.

Louisville judge has decided that the war is over. Cable the peace conference, please.

There won't be so many tight skirts after July 1.

The zero hour in any household is when friend husband steps up on the front porch five hours late and inserts his nightkey into the door.

One sure way to get everybody to agree with you is to knock yourself.

"Trotsky Has Ordered His Navy to Sea to Fight."—Headline.
A navy usually goes to sea to fish.

GENTS, MEET MISS MOORE.
Miss Doll Moore, an experienced manicurist of New York city, has taken charge of the manicurist service in the Switzer barber shop. You will find Miss Moore an expert in every sense of the word.—Albuquerque Herald.

S. A. CAMPAIGN TO CLOSE WITH RUSH

Woman's Division Will Have Doughnuts for Sale on Streets Friday.

At the